

2004 Report of Accomplishments Wahkiakum Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 – Summary

- Improved riparian conditions on 26,240 feet of stream bank by planting 42,500 trees and shrubs.
- Collaborated with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce and received funding to evaluate the feasibility of returning a portion of Skamokawa Creek back to its original channel (dead slough).
- Serving as project sponsor for one landowner and successfully obtained project funds for his fish passage improvement project through the family forest fish passage program (FFFPP). The project has been designed, permitted, and is under construction



Mission of the Wahkiakum Conservation District

The mission of the Wahkiakum County Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of the District and to guide resource development and use to provide the highest quality of life for present and future citizens

Water Quality Implementation

- Our conservation partnership assisted 43 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 23 field visits with landowners, and prepared 2 conservation plans covering 89 acres, and is assisting 6 landowners with cost share to improve natural resources.
- We are continuing to monitor stream and air temperature in priority watershed to assist with TMDL process. Twenty-one (21) stream temperature sites and six (6) air temperature sites are being managed in Wahkiakum County watersheds

Basic Funding

Wahkiakum Conservation District uses its basic funding to help keep the doors open and to meet increasing obligations for political representation. This year funding provided dues to WACD and NACD, allowed the board to participate in the state convention, and provided some overhead support. These activities directly support the districts capacity to put conservation on the ground by maintaining and improving the programs available the district to assist landowners.

Local Funding

The district does not have any local funding support at this time.

Professional Engineering

- The District is serving as the local sponsor for one landowner that has been awarded project funding through the family forest fish passage program. We have completed design drawings, obtained permits and are in the construction phase.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Maintenance was conducted on five existing contract sites.
 - Two site were planted encompassing 90 acres of riparian corridor.
 - Met with one private landowner to discuss CREP opportunities.
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Dairy

- All dairies in Wahkiakum County have been certified. Discussing the opportunity to work with all of our dairies more cooperatively on nutrient testing in order to better assess effectiveness of their waste application schedules at protecting water quality.
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Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- Cooperating with the Grays River Habitat Enhancement District to sponsor a geomorphic assessment of the Lower Grays River watershed. The project intent is to compare river current river conditions with stable reference reaches in order to responsibly identify restoration opportunities.
 - We are working with Wahkiakum High School to develop a classroom project to identify opportunities and implement restoration activities in the Nelson Creek watershed.
 - The District participated in the River Summit which provided a public forum for resource agencies. Industry, and private ownership to discuss natural resource management needs and project permitting for local watershed projects.
 - We are continuing to monitor stream and air temperature in priority watershed to assist with TMDL process. Twenty-one stream temperature sites and 6 air temperature sites are being managed in Wahkiakum County watersheds
 - Serving as the project sponsor for one landowner in the Birnie Creek Watershed and have been awarded funding to improve fish passage.
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Small Farm Programs

- Our conservation partnership assisted 43 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 23 field visits with landowners, and prepared 2 conservation plans covering 89 acres, and is assisting 6 landowners with cost share to improve natural resources.
 - The District is placing emphasis on training opportunities for technicians in an effort to build a small farms program that may assist small farms to compete for available cost share programs to improve management practices.
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Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Entered into agreement with the Grays River Habitat Enhancement District to fund a geomorphic assessment of the Lower Grays River.
 - Continue to participate in meetings of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group.
 - Collaborated with the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force to prepare a proposal that was funded to evaluate the feasibility of restoring a portion of Skamokawa Creek to its original channel.
 - Working with the Columbia River Estuary Task Force and the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group to draft a proposal to improve fish passage at tide gates that have been assessed for fish passage and complete barrier assessments in the Grays River and Deep River watersheds.
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Information & Education

- Hosted plant materials sale and assisted over 50 landowners with information regarding suitable uses of available native plant materials. Sold plant materials to 15 landowners for conservation purposes.
- Participated in regional and state envirothon.
- Participated in the Wahkiakum County Fair. Over 300 individuals passed through the exhibit hall and 125 received information from the Wahkiakum Exhibit.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting
land managers with their conservation choices